

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
BOARD OF EDUCATION
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

January 8, 1998

Business Meeting

MINUTES

The Board of Education and the Board of Vocational Education met for the regular business meeting in Conference Rooms D & E of the James Monroe State Office Building, Richmond, Virginia on Thursday, January 8, 1998 with the following members present:

Ms. Michelle Easton	Mr. Robert H. Patterson, Jr.
Mrs. Lil Tuttle	Senator John W. Russell
Mr. Mark C. Christie	Mrs. Cheri P. Yecke
Mr. Rayford L. Harris, Sr.	
Mrs. Kay James	Dr. Richard T. La Pointe
	Secretary and Superintendent of Public Instruction

Ms. Easton, president, presided and called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Senator Russell gave the invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Senator Russell made a motion for approval of the minutes of the December 16 meeting. Copies of the minutes had been distributed previously to all members of the Board for review. The motion was seconded by Mrs. James and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Easton moved Item K, *ADiscussion of the School Performance Report Card@to* be first on the agenda after public comment. Dr. La Pointe requested that Item P, *AFirst Review of a Request for Approval of Certain Courses to Satisfy Graduation Requirements@* be removed from the agenda until another meeting.

The motion was made by Mrs. Yecke, seconded by Mrs. Tuttle, and carried unanimously for approval of the agenda as amended.

HIGHLIGHT ON STUDENTS

The C. D. Hylton High School Choral Department of Prince William County Public Schools sang for the Board of Education and the public. Mrs. Lara Brittain directed the group.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. Yecke made a motion to adopt the following items on the consent agenda. Mrs. Tuttle seconded the motion.

Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Applications for Literary
Fund Loans
Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Release of Literary Fund
Loans for Placement on Waiting List
Final Review of Financial Report on Literary Loan Fund

Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Applications for Literary Fund Loans

The Superintendent's recommendation for approval of twelve new applications in the amount of \$4,584,000 subject to final approval by the office of the Attorney General, was accepted by the Board of Education's vote on the consent agenda.

COUNTY, CITY, TOWN	SCHOOL	AMOUNT
Frederick County	Armel Elementary	1,500,000.00
Frederick County	Middletown Elementary	1,500,000.00
Newport News	Crittenden Middle	75,000.00
Newport News	Denbigh High	250,000.00
Newport News	Dozier Middle	125,000.00
Newport News	Gildersleeve Middle	125,000.00
Newport News	Hines Middle	125,000.00
Newport News	Huntington Middle	250,000.000

Newport News	Menchville High	250,000.00
Newport News	Reservoir High	125,000.00
Newport News	Warwick High	184,000.00
Newport News	Washington Middle	75,000.00
	TOTAL	\$4,584,000.00

Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Release of Literary Fund Loans for Placement on Waiting List

The Superintendent's recommendation that funding for ten projects in the amount of \$1,584,000 be deferred and the projects placed on the First Priority Waiting List, two projects totaling \$6,569,805 be moved from the Second Priority Waiting List to the First Priority Waiting List and that funding for two projects in the amount of \$3,000,000 be deferred and the projects placed on the Second Priority Waiting List was accepted by the Board of Education's vote on the Consent Agenda.

First Priority Waiting List

COUNTY, CITY, TOWN	SCHOOL	AMOUNT
Accomack County	North Accomack	3,284,903.00
Accomack County	South Accomack	3,284,902.00
Newport News City	Crittenden Middle	75,000.00
Newport News City	Denbigh High	250,000.00
Newport News City	Dozier Middle	125,000.00
Newport News City	Gildersleeve Middle	125,000.00
Newport News City	Hines Middle	125,000.00
Newport News City	Huntington Middle	250,000.00
Newport News City	Menchville High	250,000.00
Newport News City	Reservoir High	125,000.00
Newport News City	Warwick High	184,000.00

Newport News City	Washington Middle	75,000.00
	TOTAL	\$8,153,805.00

Second Priority Waiting List

COUNTY, CITY, TOWN	SCHOOL	AMOUNT
Frederick County	Armel Elementary	1,500,000.00
Frederick County	Middletown Elementary	1,500,000.00
	TOTAL	\$3,000,000.00

Final Review of Financial Report on Literary Fund

The Superintendent's recommendation for approval of the financial report on the status of the Literary Fund as of October 31, 1997, was accepted by the Board of Education's vote on the consent agenda.

DISCUSSION OF CURRENT ISSUES

Mrs. Yecke discussed a report released recently by the Southern Regional Education Board, *A Better Preparation, Less Remediation*. Challenging Courses Makes a Difference.

The study involved all the southern states. Mrs. Yecke said that one of the conclusions of the study is that fewer students need remedial work when they enter college if they complete challenging academic courses in high school. The report also concludes by saying, one point is clear, not taking challenging courses limits options for further education and for employment after high school. Taking challenging courses expands those options.

Mrs. Yecke also stated that according to an article printed in the *Richmond Times Dispatch*, Virginia is one of five states that received an AA for Standards and Assessments. The article gives the summary of a study made on grading state school systems in the areas of standards and assessments, quality of teaching and school climate.

Senator Russell announced that he attended the presentation in Leesburg sponsored by the Department of Education staff to explain the Standards of Accreditation and everyone did an outstanding job.

Ms. Easton said that board leadership elections will be held soon and appointing a

committee to give recommendations for these positions is customary for the board. She said that, by the next board meeting, she will appoint a committee of board members to make recommendations for officers. The committee would be expected to make recommendations at the February 26 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following persons spoke during the public comment period:

Dr. Jerry Benson	Page Tucker
Al Butler	Jim Murphy
Dr. Deanna Gordon	Margaret Chaniski
Dr. James Ruffa	Nancy Bidder
Dr. David Blount	Dr. Robert Turner
Dr. Wayne Wheatley	Delegate Shirley Cooper
Dr. Edward Kelly	Roxanne Grossman
Judy Engelhardt	Jean Wilkerson
Ronald Frazier	Tom Smith
Thoris Patterson	Joyce Kube
Gela Winley	Anna Marie Johnson
Carol Blauvelt	

School Performance Report Card

At the Board meeting on September 4, 1997, the Board of Education adopted the Regulations Establishing Standards of Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia which became effective on October 30, 1997. Under Section 8 VAC 20-131-270 the Board adopted a plan that establishes a School Performance Report Card (Report Card) to be disseminated to the parents of children attending school and to the community.

The report card will include information showing how each school performs on statewide tests related to the Standards of Learning; accreditation status; attendance rates; safety index; including incidents of physical violence, possession of guns and other weapons, and involving possession of drugs; and data on teacher licensure.

The report card is expected to be used for the first time to report results of the 1997-98 school year after passing scores on the Standards of Learning tests have been established.

The motion to adopt the Report Card, with the understanding that formatting and wording adjustments will be made by the Board President and Department of Education staff, was made by Mr. Christie. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Yecke and carried unanimously.

GOVERNOR GEORGE ALLEN

The Governor visited the board after the Report Card was approved. He praised the board for leading the nation in public school reform, and said the report card will bring greater accountability to public education.

Governor Allen also spoke about his budget proposals for the 1998-2000 biennium to improve teacher training, reading instruction and remediation for young children, and other initiatives included in his reform program for public education.

The Governor received a framed statement of appreciation from the board for his efforts to improve public education.

Final Review of the Proposal on the Licensure Regulations for School Personnel

Mrs. James made the following motion: I move that the Board of Education repeal those sections 8 VAC 20-20-10 through 8 VAC 20-20-740, 8 VAC 20-20-760, and 8 VAC 20-20-800 through 8 VAC 20-20-980 of the ~~AL~~Licensure Regulations for School Personnel, effective July 1, 1993, and adopt as final the following sections of the Advisory Board's proposal: 8 VAC 20-21-10; 8 VAC 20-21-20; 8 VAC 20-21-30; 8 VAC 20-21-40; 8 VAC 20-21-50; 8 VAC 20-21-60; 8 VAC 20-21-70; 8 VAC 20-21-80; 8 VAC 20-21-90; 8 VAC 20-21-100; 8 VAC 20-21-110; 8 VAC 20-21-120; 8 VAC 20-21-130; 8 VAC 20-21-140; 8 VAC 20-21-150; 8 VAC 20-21-160; 8 VAC 20-21-170; 8 VAC 20-21-180; 8 VAC 20-21-190; 8 VAC 20-21-200; 8 VAC 20-21-210; 8 VAC 20-21-220; 8 VAC 20-21-230; 8 VAC 20-21-240; 8 VAC 20-21-250; 8 VAC 20-21-260; 8 VAC 20-21-270; 8 VAC 20-21-280; 8 VAC 20-21-290; 8 VAC 20-21-300; 8 VAC 20-21-310; 8 VAC 20-21-320; 8 VAC 20-21-330; 8 VAC 20-21-340; 8 VAC 20-21-350; 8 VAC 20-21-360; 8 VAC 20-21-370; 8 VAC 20-21-380; 8 VAC 20-21-390; 8 VAC 20-21-400; 8 VAC 20-21-410; 8 VAC 20-21-420; 8 VAC 20-21-450; 8 VAC 20-21-460; 8 VAC 20-21-470; 8 VAC 20-21-480; 8 VAC 20-21-490; 8 VAC 20-21-500; 8 VAC 20-21-510; 8 VAC 20-21-520; 8 VAC 20-21-530; 8 VAC 20-21-540; 8 VAC 20-21-550; 8 VAC 20-21-560; 8 VAC 20-21-570; 8 VAC 20-21-580; 8 VAC 20-21-590; 8 VAC 20-21-600; 8 VAC 20-21-610; 8 VAC 20-21-620; 8 VAC 20-21-630; 8 VAC 20-21-640; 8 VAC 20-21-650; 8 VAC 20-21-660; 8 VAC 20-21-670; 8 VAC 20-21-680; 8 VAC 20-21-690; 8 VAC 20-21-700; 8 VAC 20-21-710; 8 VAC 20-21-720; 8 VAC 20-21-730, thereby retaining sections 8 VAC 20-20-750 (Special education: emotional disturbance grades NK-12); 8 VAC 20-20-770 (Special education: mental retardation grades NK-12); 8 VAC 20-20-780 (Special education: severe disabilities grades NK-12); and 8 VAC 20-20-790 (Special education: specific learning disabilities grades NK-12) until a substitute proposal offered by the Board of Education is approved. The Board does not adopt at this time sections 8 VAC 20-21-430

and 8 VAC 20-21-440 of the Advisory Board's proposal. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harris and carried unanimously.

Mrs. James said that with the public comments heard today, along with the public comments heard from parents and interest groups during the public hearings, the best course of action to take would be to look at this issue further.

Mr. Harris made a motion to appoint a committee to clarify items under Special Education and report back to the Board. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tuttle and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Yecke requested that the following question and response item be deleted from page 6 of *Procedures for Administering Licensure Regulations for School Personnel (Draft Copy)* since the Board of Education has not discussed it.

Question: Will teacher preparation programs in special education be allowed to go beyond the 18-semester-hour professional studies cap?

Response: Yes. Teacher preparation programs will be allowed to expand professional studies to 24 semester hours in order to accommodate the increased requirements in reading.

Final Review of Proposal on Technology Regulations for Instructional Personnel

Dr. Thomas Elliott presented the Final Review of Proposal on Technology Regulations for Instructional Personnel.

Mrs. Yecke asked for clarification of bullet three on page 3 which states that: *The Board of Education should allow course work in technology to satisfy the content requirement for licensure renewal for license holders who do not have a master's degree.* Dr. Elliott responded: The intent of this bullet is for an individual who does not have a master's degree and currently required to have a 3-hour content course. This individual may substitute the 3-hour content course during one cycle of the five-year renewable period by taking a technology course. Dr. Elliott further noted that if this becomes a part of the local school division's technology plan, this explanation would also be included and clarified when it is approved.

Mrs. Yecke made a motion to approve the Technology Regulations for Instructional Personnel as presented. The motion was seconded by Senator Russell and carried unanimously.

Report on American Sign Language Instruction in Virginia Secondary Schools

Dr. Jo Lynn Demary introduced Dr. Lissa Power-deFur to present the Report on American Sign Language (ASL) in Virginia Secondary Schools.

Dr. deFur reported that ASL is the visual-gestural language that is the primary means of communication used by deaf persons in America and parts of Canada. It is related to French Sign Language due to the influence of France on the establishment of deaf education programs using sign language in the United States. American Sign Language is used by an estimated 100,000 to 500,000 persons in the United States.

Virginia's Quality Assurance Screening (VQAS) is administered by the Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. A person is awarded a Level (I through IV), based on the accuracy of his or her interpreting six different scenarios. Virginia's Special Education Regulations require persons to hold a VQAS Level III (80% accuracy) to interpret for students who are deaf or hard of hearing. A person may hold a VQAS Level (50% accuracy) at employment and attain a VQAS Level III by the third anniversary of employment. Virginia school divisions employed 250 persons to provide educational interpreting services in 1996-97. Nineteen percent were fully qualified.

In 1989, Department of Education established the policy that credits earned in American Sign Language course work would satisfy the foreign language requirements of the advanced studies diploma. A student may apply two credits of ASL and two credits of another foreign language to earn that diploma. The foreign language community has not supported this policy. Many foreign language educators at the secondary and post-secondary level do not view ASL as a foreign language. Virginia has not established Standards of Learning or a scope and sequence of instruction and teacher qualification requirements. Therefore, school divisions develop their own standards for teachers and scope and sequence of study.

House Joint Resolution 228 of the 1996 General Assembly requested that public schools and private institutions of higher education recognize ASL course work for foreign language credit. Currently fourteen school divisions offer ASL.

The Board accepted the report as first review and will review again in February or March. Mrs. Tuttle suggested that a copy of the scope and sequence already used in school divisions and community colleges be presented at the next review.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Tuttle made a motion to go into executive session under Virginia Code section 2.1-344 A1 to discuss licensure matters related to specific teachers and administrators, under section 2.1-344 A 11 to discuss specific tests of student performance, under section 2.1-344 A 6 to discuss the investment of public funds where competition and bargaining are involved and the competitive position of the Commonwealth may be adversely affected, under section 2.1-344 A 1 to discuss personnel matters involving specific individuals, and under section 2.1-344 A 7 for briefings by staff and/or legal counsel regarding specific legal matters. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Yecke and carried unanimously. The Board adjourned for Executive Session at 12:10 p.m.

Mrs. Tuttle made a motion that the Board reconvene in open session. The motion was seconded by Senator Russell and carried unanimously. The Board reconvened at 2:40 p.m.

Mrs. Tuttle made a motion that the Board certify by roll call vote that to the best of each member's knowledge, (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the executive session to which this certification motion applies, and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the executive session were heard, discussed or considered by the Board. The motion was seconded by Senator Russell and carried unanimously.

Board Roll Call:

Easton - Aye	James - Aye
Tuttle -Aye	Patterson - Aye
Christie - Aye	Russell - Aye
Harris - Aye	Yecke - Aye

Mrs. Yecke made the following motion: All move that, in response to concerns expressed in the field, that we ask staff to study the feasibility of moving the Stanford 9 to a fall administration, including the possibility of this year's administration. We ask that staff solicit input from local divisions and that they work with the contractor and explore the legal implications of this suggestion, and that they present their recommendations to the Board at our February meeting.® The motion was seconded by Senator Russell and carried unanimously.

First Review of the Revised Procedures for Initiating an Academic Year Governor=s

School

Dr. Janie Craig gave a brief overview of the First Review of the Revised Procedures for Initiating an Academic Year Governor's School.

Mrs. Yecke made the following motion: I move that we accept the revision to include the following CA statement of assurance that all divisions, listed in the proposal at the time it is approved by the Board of Education, intend to participate for a minimum of three years in the program. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harris and carried unanimously.

Update on Proposed Revisions to the Literary Loan Fund

The Board accepted the Update on Proposed Revisions to the Literary Loan Fund as informational.

Discussion of Options for Permitting Non-Public School Students to take the LPT and SOL Tests

The motion was made by Mrs. Yecke to adopt the following resolution. The motion was seconded by Mrs. James and carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION TO STUDY OPTIONS TO ALLOW NON-PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS TO TAKE STANDARDS OF LEARNING TESTS ON A PURELY VOLUNTARY BASIS

Whereas, the Board of Education believes that it would be in the public interest to allow all students to take the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) tests, as long as those individual non-public school students who choose to take the SOL tests do so on a purely voluntary basis and there is no negative impact on the integrity of the regular SOL testing program.

Now, Be It Resolved, that the Board of Education requests that the Department of Education conduct a study of the legal, fiscal, logistical and other relevant issues involved in making Virginia SOL tests available to all students.

Be It Further Resolved, that the Department shall complete this study and present the Board with options for implementing such a policy in time for consideration at the Board's regularly-scheduled meeting in September 1998.

Status Report on the Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind

Robert Whytal, Director, Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, reported on the

status of the two schools.

The Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind at Staunton

There were 106 students in residence during the 1996-97 school year. Nineteen of the students were blind and eighty-seven were deaf.

Some new initiatives regarding the residential program are: (1) Evening guidance sessions on topics that include personal boundaries, appropriate and inappropriate behavior, and drug and alcohol abuse. These weekly sessions, with parent permission, are provided by staff from the Institute for Family Centered Services of Charlottesville, Virginia, (2) Students participate in a junior security guard program to assist with inspections under the Interdepartmental Standards (CORE). Students learn what CORE is and take responsibility for cleaning the dorms, etc. The children then fill out reports of their self-inspection. In December of 1997, Department of Education personnel conducted a CORE licensing visit. Students accompanied DOE staff in their dorm review to learn from the experience.

The Department of Education allocated approximately \$40,000 in federal funds to assist VSDB-Staunton in filling the need for personnel in the residential program. The Department of Education also has assigned surplus computers to be used in the residential and educational programs.

The Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind at Hampton

Fifty-nine students were served in the residential program. Twenty-eight residential students were deaf, four students were blind and twenty-seven students have multiple disabilities.

After-school students in the academic program work on their Individual Service Plans (ISPs); other students enjoy free play, arts and crafts, board or video games, or campus walks. Therapists work with students and train the staff.

The Department of Education allocated approximately \$20,000 in federal funds to assist VSDB-Hampton with wage personnel to fill gaps in the residential program. The Department of Education has also assigned surplus computers to be used in residential and educational programs.

The Advisory Commission on the Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind will propose the following initiatives to be considered by the 1998 General Assembly. They are:

(1) A Code change to require local school divisions to notify parents of the continuum of services to include the VSDBs, the Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and the Virginia Department for the Visually Handicapped, (2) A request for a legislative study for ED/Special Needs Program on the campus of VSDB Staunton, (3) A Code change to include the VSDBs in funding initiatives that are targeted to local school divisions. The intent of this initiative is to ensure that the VSDBs are recipients of any funds designated for Apublic schools,@and (4) To offer a budget amendment to include funding for residential services at both VSDBs.

Final Review of the 1997 Annual Report on the Status of Public Education in the Commonwealth of Virginia

Dr. James Laws reported that the following changes have been made to the report: (1) The charts were placed behind the text to serve as an appendix, (2) The *Statewide Reading Initiative* text was changed, (3) The Report Card will be added under Appendix F, and (4) The sixth grade LPT scores will be listed by schools instead of by school division.

Mr. Harris made a motion to approve the 1997 Annual Report with the changes listed above. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tuttle and carried unanimously.

Second Review of Guidelines for Teacher Removal of Students from Class for Disruptive Behavior

The Board of Education decided to hold this agenda item until the February 26 meeting.

Review of Skills for the SOL Tests Blueprints

Cam Harris said that The SOL Test Blueprints were sent to superintendents before the Christmas holidays. The blueprints will also be mailed to schools for distribution to teachers.

The purpose of the blueprints is to provide more detail regarding the format and content of the SOL tests. There is a blueprint for all twenty-seven tests. The blueprint gives teachers a full outline of how tests have been constructed and what the committees used in developing the tests items.

Mrs. Harris also stated that the SOL Tests Blueprints will be on the Department of Education's home page on the Internet.

Review of Legislative Issues for the 1998 General Assembly

Board members indicated their positions on 1998 legislative issues as follows:

1. Labor Day Opening - **Support**
2. Charter Schools - **Support**
3. Teacher Term Contract - **Support**
4. Binding Arbitration - **Opposed**
5. School Nurses/Health Services - **Opposed**
6. Planning Time for Elementary School Teachers - **Monitor**
7. Elementary School Guidance Counselors - **Oppose**
8. Weighted Pupil/Teacher Ratios for Disabled Students - **Monitor**
9. Compulsory School Attendance Age - **Support**
10. Student Access to Public School Programs - **Monitor**
11. Professional Standards Board - **Opposed**
12. Family Life Education - **Opposed**
13. Alternative Education Programs - **Monitor**
14. Vocational Diploma Issue - **Oppose**
15. Transportation to Non-Public School Pupils (AShare the Ride®) - **Monitor**
16. Vouchers/Tuition Tax Credits - **Monitor**

First Review of Courses to Satisfy Requirements for Graduation

The Board decided to hold this item until the February 26 meeting.

First Review of Requests for Increased Graduation Requirements

Mr. Charles Finley reported that the school boards of the City of Portsmouth, City of Hopewell, and Spotsylvania County have recently requested Board approval of additional requirements. The request from the City of Portsmouth was initially submitted in March 1997. The board recently reaffirmed their request for approval of the requirements. The requests from Hopewell City and Spotsylvania County are first-time requests.

Mrs. Tuttle made a motion that the request from the City of Hopewell is denied on the basis that it creates different diplomas than those established in the Standards of Accreditation, however, the City of Hopewell and the County of Spotsylvania is encouraged to pursue these options through local seals. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Yecke and carried unanimously.

The board decided to hold the City of Portsmouth's request until the February 26 meeting.

MONTANA BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Board of Education met with the Montana Board of Education in response to a request from the Montana Board.

The Governor appoints the Montana Board of Education and members serve seven-year terms. The following members of the Montana Board of Education were present:

Wayne Buchanan - Executive Secretary
Joyce Silverthorne - Vice Chair
Bob Brown - Former State Senator
Bill Cooper - Deputy Commissioner, Office of Public Instruction
Kirk Miller - Superintendent

The Montana Board members had met previously with Department of Education staff members and received information about Virginia's public education reform program.

Mrs. Yecke gave a brief presentation which included resources used by the Virginia Board of Education to develop new standards. She reported that the following *Public Agenda* reports were used by the Virginia Board of Education: (1) 1994CFirst Things First: What Americans Expect from Public Schools, (2) 1995CAssignment Incomplete: The Unfinished Business of School Reform, and (3) 1996CGiven the Circumstances: Gives the teacher point of view.

It was discussed that the Montana Board is doing many things that Virginia has completed, such as, setting high standards for all students, assessment, accreditation standards, school report card and teacher education.

A lengthy discussion was held on why Virginia standards were rated higher than other states and public hearings held around the state.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Ms. Easton adjourned the meeting of the Virginia Board of Education and the Board of Vocational Education at 4:40 p.m.

President